

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. E. PORTER, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

J. P. HUMPHERY, F.S.I.A.

1925.

REDHILL :

S. C. JENNINGS AND SONS, LTD., PRINTERS.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. E. PORTER, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

J. P. HUMPHERY, F.S.I.A.

1925.

REDHILL :

S. C. JENNINGS AND SONS, LTD., PRINTERS.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Abatement of nuisances, &c.	61
Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations in force	18
Ambulance facilities	16
Bakehouses	58
Cleansing Station	39
Clinics and Treatment Centres	16
Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act	59
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	58
Diphtheria	42
Disinfection	39, 53
Factories and Workshops	23, 59
Food Supply	31, 56
Hospital Accommodation	15, 38
Housing	25, 63
Infectious Disease	34, 53
Influenza	39
Isolation Hospital	38
Laboratory Work	18, 36
Legal Proceedings.	66
Maternity and Child Welfare	45
Meat	33, 54
Midwives	19, 47
Milk and Cream Regulations	34
Milk and Dairies Amendment Act	58
Natural and Social Conditions	10
Notices issued (Public Health Acts)	62
Nursing Arrangements	17
Office Work	65
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	49
Overcrowding	26
Public Health Staff	17
Public Mortuary	63
Rent Restrictions	61
River Pollution	20
Sale of Food and Drugs Acts	33, 57
Sanitary Inspections	65
Scarlet Fever	41
Scavenging	21
Schools	24
Sewerage	20
Slaughter houses	33, 55
Stable Premises	63
Summary of complaints received	61
„ „ part of work	65
Tuberculous Diseases	43
„ Milk	31
Vital Statistics	11
Water Supply	19

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1925.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary and the Maternity
and Child Welfare Committees.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1925. Its length is due to the fact that each fifth year the Ministry of Health require that the Annual Report shall be a "Survey Report," dealing comprehensively with the characteristics of the District, and the administrative changes which have taken place during the five years, as well as with the usual events that have occurred during the year particularly under review. I have followed as closely as possible Circular 648 of the Ministry, which prescribes the headings under which the Report should be compiled.

In my Report for 1924 I referred to the death of Dr. H. J. Blackler, late School Medical Officer and Deputy Medical Officer of Health. There are five Standing Committees of the Borough Council providing medical services, which in 1925 were being carried out by six different medical practitioners, five being engaged in general practice, the sixth (Medical Officer of Health) giving half his time to the Reigate Rural District Council. A Joint Committee, consisting of representatives of the five Committees, was appointed to report whether a modification of the existing arrangements should be made, but, after considering the desirability of appointing a whole-time Medical Officer, or a whole-time Assistant Medical Officer, with such additional part-time

assistance as might be necessary, the Joint Committee recommended the Borough Council to continue on the existing lines. The Medical Officer of Health was appointed School Medical Officer, and the Education Committee appointed a part-time Assistant School Medical Officer. Four General Practitioners hold the remaining clinical appointments. One of the chief difficulties in the way of making a whole-time appointment is the lack of sufficient office accommodation at the Municipal Buildings, which would require building operations. Apart from the expense which would be entailed in providing this accommodation, any alternative scheme would involve an extra annual charge of from £100 to £200. Enquiries showed that comparisons of the cost of similar medical services in Reigate, and in seven residential towns in the Home Counties having whole-time Medical Officers, were in favour of the former.

This is the twentieth Annual Report I have presented to the Council. Owing to the lengthy form in which it has to be compiled, any comparison of the public health administration, and the statistical results, of the present day with that of twenty years ago must necessarily be brief. In 1906, apart from the treatment of certain infectious diseases, the activities of Health Authorities were directed chiefly to the sanitation of houses and other premises, and to the food and water supplies of the community. The inception of the School Medical, and subsequently of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, established the principle that the supervision of the health of the individual is an essential function of a Local Authority. Legislation, principally on environment and food supply, however, has not been lacking, and, during the past twenty years, there have been at least 14 Acts of Parliament, and 36 Statutory Regulations or Orders issued by Government Departments, which have to be administered by Health Authorities (excluding Education Authorities) and their Officers. In 1906 there were twelve infectious diseases to be notified; now the number is twenty-two, including tuberculosis which alone entails constant office work, as well as disinfection.

From the point of view of Vital Statistics, the chief feature has been the steady drop in both the birth-rate and the infant mortality. For the five years 1901-5 the mean rates were 21.6 per 1,000 population, and 89.5 per 1,000 births respectively. For the five years 1921-25 the figures were 14.7 and 38.9.

During the same period the birth-rate in England and Wales has dropped from 28.1 to 20.0. This is a physiological phenomenon which tends to occur in all highly civilised communities. In England the decrease is no doubt also associated with changing economic conditions, with the heavy loss of young men during the years 1914-18, and with an increasingly higher mean age of the population. These conditions apply equally to Reigate. Moreover, the comparatively low birth-rates both now and twenty years ago are largely explained by the constitution of the population, consisting as it does of a higher proportion of persons above the child-bearing period than in the Country generally. To a much smaller degree, the shortage of houses for young married couples may have contributed.

The diminution in the infant mortality by 56 per cent. may be ascribed partly to the smaller average size of the family, partly to improved sanitation, but chiefly to a better knowledge of mothercraft, for which the efforts of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee can take considerable credit.

The general nett death-rate in Reigate, on the other hand, shows a tendency to increase from a mean of 10.5 per 1,000 population for the five years 1901-5 to one of 11.2 for the five years 1921-25. This does not indicate in the least that conditions are less favourable to longevity than they were twenty years ago, and the increase might have been anticipated in view of the gradual alteration in an upward direction of the mean age of the population. This is the result of a continuous decrease in the birth-rate accompanied by a longer expectation of life among infants, children, and young adults. Twenty years ago the mean general death-rate among Reigate persons aged 65 and upwards was 3.7 per 1,000 of the whole population, while now

it is 6.0. The same influence is illustrated in another way. In order that death-rates in different areas, or in the same area at different periods, may be compared, the Registrar-General calculates a "factor," from the population figures yielded at each Census, which, when multiplied by the nett death-rate, gives the "standardised" death rate. The factor is greater than unity in an area where the sex and age distribution are more favourable to a low death-rate than in the Country generally, and is lower than unity where the converse is the case. For the period 1911-15 the factor for Reigate was 0.928. For the period 1921-25 it is 0.821, showing how the sex and age distribution has altered in ten years in a direction unfavourable to the general death-rate. Again, at the Census of 1911 there were 31.0 per cent. of the population over the age of 40, and 18.7 above the age of 50, whilst in 1921 the percentages had increased to 38.5 and 24.2 respectively.

Using the factor for the mean nett death-rate 1921-25, the standardised rate becomes 9.2. The factor was not calculated for the period twenty years earlier, but would certainly have been not less than 0.95, so that the mean standardised death-rate for 1901-5 would be 10.0 or over. The mean population for the latter period could be calculated by a comparison of the Census figures 1901 and 1911, and was therefore approximately accurate. That for 1921-25 has almost certainly been underestimated by the Registrar-General, so that the difference between the two mean standardised death-rates is greater than appears.

The tendency for a slackening in the diminution of the nett death-rates throughout the Country can hardly fail to continue, whilst a gradual increase in that for areas like Reigate must be anticipated. In Reigate little, if any, further decrease in the infant mortality is to be expected, and a check to an increased death-rate could only be effected by a longer expectation of life among older children, and among adults. This may be realised as regards the former by the medical inspection of school-children, and the remedying of defects (including dental defects) found. As regards the

population generally, apart from the effects in the improvement of food supplies and the sanitation of homes and places of employment, the most likely influence is to be found in the education of the public in the observance of the laws of personal hygiene, such as suitable food, fresh-air and exercise, and suitable hours of rest. The facilities for obtaining medical advice, and medical, dental, and nursing treatment, have been, and are being, greatly increased, as compared with the facilities of twenty years ago, but it would be to the advantage of every man and woman, who has attained adult life, to undergo a periodical medical examination, similar to that required in a candidate for life insurance, whereby early deviations from health would be detected and remedied where possible.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR E. PORTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

REIGATE.

16th March, 1926.

SECTION I.

Natural and Social Conditions.

<i>Area</i> (Land and Inland Water)	5,995 acres.
<i>Population</i> , Census 1921 (enumerated)	28,914
<i>Do.</i> ,, ,, (adjusted)	28,690
<i>Do.</i> (estimated by Registrar-General), 1925	28,700
<i>Number of inhabited houses</i> (1921)	6,052
,, ,, <i>families or separate occupiers</i> (1921)	6,825
<i>Rateable Value</i> (1925)	£232,731
<i>Assessable Value</i> (1925)	£217,593
<i>Sum represented by a Penny Rate</i>	£925

Physical Features and Social Conditions.

The Borough varies in elevation from about 160 to 740 feet above O.D. A small portion of the North-west Ward is situated upon the summit of the North Downs, but the town lies chiefly at the foot of the escarpment, the subsoil south of the chalk formation consisting of successive outcrops of upper greensand, gault and lower greensand running east and west, the last resting on the weald clay in the south, and rising to a well-marked ridge, which attains in places an elevation of upwards of 400 feet. Apart from the North Downs there are many acres of natural open spaces. The Corporation, mainly as Lords of the Manor, or as the result of gifts, own about 300 acres in various parts of the Borough, while Redhill and Earlswood Commons (334 acres) are under the control of a Board of Conservators, and some 60 acres of the North Downs, purchased by the National Trust, are under the supervision of the Corporation. These public open spaces amount to 700 acres.

Essentially the Borough is a residential district, comprising the towns of Reigate and Redhill, their centres being about two miles apart.

At the Census of 1921 there were enumerated 8,209 occupied males and 4,489 occupied females, making a total

of 12,698. Among the males the largest classes of employment were :—“ Transport and Communications,” 1,219 ; “ Commercial, Finance and Insurance,” 1,156 (this includes Salesmen and Shop Assistants, 320) ; “ Agriculture ” (including Gardeners), 907 ; “ Metal Workers ” (including Fitters, Smiths, Motor Mechanics, etc.), 623 ; “ Builders,” 460 ; “ Clerks and Draughtsmen,” 454 ; and “ Professional Occupations,” 402.

Among the females 2,673 were engaged in “ Personal Service,” 288 being Laundry Workers, and 2,166 Domestic Servants. There were 432 occupied in “ Commercial, Finance and Insurance ” (343 in shops) ; 431 in “ Professional Occupations ” ; and 303 in “ Textile Goods and Articles of Dress.”

None of the occupations in the Borough would be classed as inimical to the health of the workers.

Vital Statistics, 1925, and previous years :—

		Total.	M.	F.				
<i>Births</i>	{ Legitimate...	382	190	192	Birth rate	...	...	14.1
	{ Illegitimate	23	13	10				
					Birth rate, 1924	...	...	13.7
					Birth rate 5 years 1920-24			16.0
		Total.	M.	F.				
<i>Deaths (nett)</i>	...	346	166	180	Death rate	...	...	12.1
<i>Do.</i>	1924	...	339		Death rate, 1924		...	11.9
<i>Do., 5 years, 1920-24</i>		307			Death rate 5 years, 1920-24			10.8
<i>Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth :—</i>								
From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
From other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
<i>Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1000 births :—</i>								
Legitimate, 36.6	Illegitimate, 43.5	Total	...	...	...	...	...	37.0
					Total, 1924	...	...	44
					Total, 5 years, 1920-24	...	...	40
<i>Deaths from Measles (all ages)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
<i>Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Population.

The Registrar-General estimates the mid-year population at 28,700, or 130 more than in 1924. It is, however, the same figure as he estimated for 1922, only 10 more than the “ adjusted ” population for 1921, and 214 less than was actually enumerated at the Census of 1921. It is probably an appreciable underestimate. In a similar manner, his estimate for 1920 was over 1,000 less than the population enumerated some twelve months afterwards.

In the four years since the Census nearly 200 new houses have been built, half of which are larger than working-class houses, and therefore would not have served appreciably in "spacing out" the existing population. These larger houses alone should correspond to a population of at least 400.

Births.

The gross births registered in 1925 were 449, reduced to 405 nett, namely 203 males and 202 females, as against 390 in 1924. The birth-rate was 14.1 per 1,000 population as against 13.7 in 1924, and a mean of 16.0 for the five years 1920-24. Illegitimate births formed 5.7 per cent. of the total, as against 2.6 in 1924, 3.4 in 1923 and 4.7 in 1922.

Deaths.

After deducting the deaths of "non-residents," and adding those of Reigate persons who died elsewhere, there were 346 deaths, as compared with 339 in 1924. The nett death-rate was 12.1 per 1,000 population, as compared with 11.9 in 1924, and a mean of 10.8 for the five years 1920-24. When the death-rate is adjusted for the age and sex distribution of the Borough, the "standardised" death rate is 9.9. If the population has been underestimated, the rate is still lower.

Deaths of persons 65 years of age and upwards formed 51.4 per cent. of all deaths; 70 and upwards 42.5 per cent.; and 80 and upwards 19.7 per cent. The principal causes of death which were in excess were:—tuberculosis of the lungs (22), non-tubercular diseases of the respiratory organs (44), cancer (48), heart disease (55), and Bright's disease (11).

Influenza was only responsible for 4 deaths, as against 27 in 1924.

The death-rates for the four quarters were 16.3, 10.7, 7.7 and 13.5, respectively.

The excess of births over deaths was 59. In 1924 it was 51.

Infant Mortality.

The nett deaths of infants under one year of age was 15, as against 17 in 1924, and a mean of 18.2 for the years 1920-24. This is the smallest number ever recorded in the Borough, the next smallest being 16 in both 1917 and 1923. The infant mortality per 1,000 nett births was 37, as against 44 in 1924, and a mean of 40 for the five years 1920-24. The lowest figure yet recorded is 36 in 1921.

The 15 deaths were made up of four from prematurity ; three from marasmus ; two from injury at birth ; two from congenital defects ; and one each from neglect at birth, from overlying, from broncho-pneumonia, and from whooping cough. There were no deaths from diarrhoea or gastro-enteritis. It may be noted that only one of the infants had ever been brought to the Infant Welfare Centre, and that one only once. Also that ten out of the fifteen deaths occurred within three weeks of birth.

Among the 23 illegitimate babies there was one death.
Comparative vital statistics for 1925 are as follows :—

	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Infant Mortality
England and Wales ...	18·3	12·2	75
157 Towns (1921 pop- ulations of 20,000— 50,000)	18·3	11·2	74
Reigate	14·1	12·1*	37

*This is the nett death-rate. The standardised rate was 9.9

Amount of Poor-Law Relief, etc.

The Reigate Union includes the Rural District of Reigate as well as the Borough, with a population at the 1921 Census of 51,634. A penny rate yields £1,700. The cost of indoor relief during the year ending March 31st, 1925, was £6,473 1s. 11d., and of out-door relief £5,351 11s. 7d. The

cost of maintenance in hospitals, certified schools, etc., was £2,672 0s. 2d., and in hospitals, etc., through the Surrey Joint Poor Law Committee was £1,187 4s. 11d. The cost of maintenance of lunatics was £7,313 6s. 4d., and that of boarding-out children, £1,170 6s. 2d.

The number of days' maintenance of inmates in the Guardians' Institution was 88,073, of which 9,672 days were in respect of the Children's Homes. There were 14,295 nights' maintenance of casuals.

The East Surrey Hospital serves a large area in the south-east corner of Surrey. In 1925 940 patients were admitted.

Apart from the advice and treatment given at the School and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, there are no other forms of gratuitous medical relief in the Borough. The number of mothers and infants availing themselves of the latter facilities is given in SECTION VII. At the School Clinic 1,600 attendances were paid for the treatment of minor ailments during the year.

Causes of Sickness and Invalidity in 1925.

The excess of deaths from certain causes has been referred to. In the Section on infectious diseases reference is made to the extensive outbreaks of mumps and whooping cough. In the month of May, Reigate was credited in some of the London evening newspapers with a mysterious malady, affecting the digestive organs, which had baffled the local doctors. Enquiries failed to confirm this rumour. In the autumn, however, there were a number of patients afflicted with an illness somewhat suggesting food poisoning, but no common source could be discovered; it occurred before the season when certain imported apples were found to be contaminated by arsenic. It may, however, have been a form of "gastric" influenza, but this disease, judging by the small mortality, did not manifest itself extensively.

SECTION II.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council.

1. Tuberculosis.

Patients are sent at the cost of the County Council to various sanatoria and hospitals situated in different parts of the country. It is proposed to erect a new sanatorium on their site at Milford with accommodation for 200 patients.

2. Maternity.

The Surrey County Nursing Association have a Maternity Home situated in Woodlands Road, Redhill, with accommodation for six patients. The Borough Council contribute towards the weekly maintenance charges in necessitous cases.

3. Children.

Arrangements have been made for the admission of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum into the East Surrey Hospital, the fees payable by the Borough Council to be 1/- a day for the infant alone, and 8/- a day for infant and mother.

4. Fever.

The Borough Isolation Hospital is situated just outside the Borough boundary, and contains accommodation for 26 scarlet fever and 12 diphtheria patients, while another block is capable of taking 6 further patients.

5. Smallpox.

The County Council have an estate at Clandon, near Guildford, containing the nucleus of a smallpox hospital, with 21 beds, and capable of expansion should the occasion arise. Reigate Borough is one of the contributory districts.

6. Other.

The East Surrey Hospital is the general hospital for the Borough and neighbouring area, and provides accommodation for between 80 and 90 patients. It is not subsidised by the Council.

Institutional provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children in the District.

There is no provision within the district for these classes, except at the Guardians' Institution.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases. A motor ambulance is maintained at the Isolation Hospital for the joint use of the Reigate Borough and Rural District Councils.

(b) For non-infectious cases. The Council has a motor ambulance, in charge of the Police. The Borough of Reigate Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade also have a motor ambulance, which serves a large area.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Borough Council's Health Centre is used for Maternity and Child Welfare and for School Clinics. It is situated in Brownlow Road, Redhill, and five rooms are set aside for the purpose. The infant consultations are held twice a week, and a doctor is in attendance. Ante-natal clinics are held about once a month, as occasion requires.

A child welfare Clinic is also held once a fortnight at a Mission Room in South Park, financed by a voluntary committee. There is no medical attendant. The Borough Council makes an annual contribution.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

The County Council's Dispensary is situated off London Road, Redhill.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.

Provision is made at the East Surrey Hospital, with a subsidy from the County Council.

Day Nurseries.

There are none in the Borough.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

These consist of :—

Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Reigate Rural District Council) ; holds the Diploma in Public Health.

Medical Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic ; part-time annual appointment.

Chief Sanitary Inspector (Certificate of Sanitary Institute).

Two Assistant Sanitary Inspectors (one has the Certificate of the Sanitary Institute).

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant.

Clerk.

Two Health Visitors ; one whole-time, one also School Nurse. Both have the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, and one the Sanitary Institute's Certificate for Health Visitors.

Exchequer Grants are payable as regards the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health, the Medical Officer of the Clinic, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the Health Visitor.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

General and Infectious Diseases.

There are two private associations supplying trained nurses. The Reigate, Redhill and District Nursing Association, affiliated to the County N.A., has a staff of four " Queen's " nurses who are also midwives, in addition to the Matron. The Borough Council have an arrangement with the Association to undertake the nursing of those classes of illness which have been recognised for this purpose by the Ministry of Health, a definite payment being made per visit.

In South Park there is a separate Nursing Association, not subsidised by the Borough or County Councils. Their nurse is permitted to attend cases of measles and whooping-cough when not incompatible with her other work.

At the extreme South-Eastern portion of the Borough similar work is undertaken by the Salfords branch of the Horley Nursing Association.

Midwives.

There is now only one midwife of the “ bona fide ” class practising in the Borough, and she attended no cases. The remainder of the midwifery is carried out by the staff of the Reigate, Redhill and District Nursing Association, and that of the Salfords Association mentioned above. The Borough Council pays 5/- a case for each confinement attended in a working-class dwelling by the staff of the first-named Association. Except in emergencies the work is carried out by two of the staff only.

There are, in addition, midwives attached to the County Nursing Association Maternity Home, and to the Guardians’ Institution.

Chemical Work.

Samples of food and drugs requiring chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst, Mr. E. Hinks, in London. The results of his analyses in 1925 are given in the Sanitary Inspector’s report, and are referred to in SECTION V.

Legislation in Force.

Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	adopted	1890
Public Health Acts, Amendment, Act, 1890	...	„	1890
Private Street Works Act, 1892	... ..	„	1892
Public Health Acts, Amendment, Act, 1907	...	„	1907
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II to V	... ..	„	1925
Byelaws with respect to New Streets & Buildings		„	1909
„ „ „ „ Slaughter-houses	... ..	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Offensive Trades	... ..	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Nuisances	... ..	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Cleansing of footways, etc.	... ..	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Common Lodging Houses	... ..	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Good Rule and Govern- ment	... ..	„	1905
Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	... ..	„	1899

The building bye-laws referred to superseded an earlier set adopted at some antecedent date. A new set has been under consideration by the Ministry of Health and Borough Council for over a year, and will probably be finally approved during 1926.

The Surrey County Council Act, 1925, contains provisions with respect to Ice Cream and Maternity Homes, for a portion of the administration of which the Borough Council will be responsible.

There is nothing of note to report as regards administration during the year of any of the above.

There are no important points in which the work of the Local Authority is administered in co-operation with the services of National Health Insurance or the Voluntary Hospitals. As regards the Poor Law, the Council's Health Visitors, by arrangement with the Guardians, visit the children in the care of foster-mothers, and report direct to the Guardians.

SECTION III.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The East Surrey Water Company, from whom the supply is derived, pump the water from deep wells bored about 125 feet into the chalk at Kenley and Purley. According to analyses of samples taken in August and November, 1925, the original total hardness was slightly over 25 parts per 100,000, reduced by Clarke's process to 9 parts or thereabouts, the average No. of degrees of hardness (Clarke) being 6.7 and 6.2 respectively. About one-half of this is due to "permanent hardness." Both the chemical and bacteriological investigations showed that the untreated and treated water are of the highest degree of organic purity.

The supply is constant and at high pressure ; the average consumption per head is somewhat over 25 gallons a day.

A few of the outlying cottages are at a distance from a main, and obtain their supplies from wells.

Rivers and Streams.

The Thames Conservancy exercise supervision over the River Mole and its tributaries. They complained about pollution of a water-course in Nutley Lane, which appeared to be due to drainage from the premises of a disused gas-works.. This was attended to.

Drainage and Sewerage.

All portions of the Borough, except some of the outskirts, are sewerred. The sewage after screening is passed through open sedimentation tanks having a combined capacity of 325,000 gallons; these are worked alternately except in storm times, when both come into operation. The effluent is then distributed by means of revolving sprinklers over the surfaces of seven pairs of coarse and fine clinker filters. The dry weather flow is approximately 1,000,000 gallons. The coarse and fine filters are 80 feet in diameter and 4ft. and 3ft. 6in. deep respectively.

The filtered effluent passes into settling tanks for the purpose of arresting as far as possible suspended matter. There are three of these tanks, the capacity of each being 13,500 cubic feet, with approximate holding capacity of 84,375 gallons. The effluent from these tanks passes into carriers, and can then either be used for feeding the crops on the farm land, or be passed direct into the stream, which eventually discharges into the River Mole.

The sewage from the greater part of the Borough reaches the installation by gravity, but requires raising at three points by means of Shone ejectors, and in the neighbourhood of Reigate Heath by a pumping station.

Surface and roof water is separated from the sewage system as far as possible, and is discharged into water courses. In times of storm, the excess which passes into the general system is treated on the farm lands.

The drainage from a group of houses and farm buildings in an outlying district known as "The Clears" has been a source of difficulty for many years. The original owner of the land and buildings voluntarily constructed a system of drains, collected in one of his fields to a biological purification plant, in preference to providing cesspools. Building operations have been somewhat active in recent years, and the plant has been neglected, with the production of a nuisance. It would only be practicable to connect this system with that of the Borough at unreasonable expense, and negotiations have been carried out between the Corporation and the Trustees of the Estate for a considerable period. These negotiations are now likely to have a successful result, and a scheme has been prepared at an estimated cost of £1,000 to deal with a future population of 250, the owners conveying the necessary land to the Corporation, and contributing a specified sum. If this materialises, the Corporation will reconstruct the works and take them over.

The few houses or groups of houses elsewhere, which are not on the sewerage system, either drain to cesspools, or have the sewage dealt with by subsoil irrigation.

Closet Accommodation.

All dwellings on the sewerage system, and practically all those draining to cesspools, are provided with water closets. In some of the older premises these are hand-flushed, but the number is gradually decreasing as the result of inspection. During 1925 flushing apparatus were provided to 105 houses.

Scavenging.

Weekly removal of house refuse is aimed at by the Corporation. In most instances moveable bins are provided, but in some of the older properties fixed receptacles are found during inspection. During 1925 bins were provided at 83 premises.

There is no destructor, and the expense of team labour has in recent years made the cartage of house refuse to the Corporation tip a costly matter. The question of providing a destructor is under consideration.

A voluntary system of removing trade refuse from certain premises is undertaken by the Corporation. It is desirable in the interests of the public, but involves an appreciable financial loss.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

To avoid duplication, reference may be made to the report of the Sanitary Inspector following this report.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaints were received, and no action was necessary in 1925.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by By-laws or Regulations.

These include one tannery, 14 slaughter-houses, 17 cowsheds, 32 dairies and milkshops, and two common lodging houses. As explained in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, two of the slaughter-houses were not employed as such in 1925. There are no houses let in lodgings, nor underground sleeping rooms. The tannery is well conducted, and the inevitable smell is limited to the immediate neighbourhood. Of the slaughter-houses 6 are satisfactory premises. The remainder are inferior, either structurally, or in connection with their surroundings. All, however, were established at dates which preclude any radical action being taken. Of the cowsheds 12 are good, the remainder being less satisfactory, but complying with the Regulations. Of the 32 dairies and milkshops 30 are confined to this business, and are good. Among the remainder the selling of milk is not the only trade, and the conditions are generally less satisfactory. Nine other dairies, situated outside the Borough, are also on the Register.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.

Mosquitoes.

Complaints were received in the late summer and early autumn with regard to mosquitoes. Provision has been made to deal with the main breeding places in 1926.

Rats.

An officer was appointed, acting under the Borough Surveyor, to supervise the destruction of rats by occupiers of infested premises.

Factories and Workshops.

TABLES 1 & 2, which follow, are prescribed by the Home office. Further details are included in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS
AND WORKPLACES.**

**INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR
INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.**

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	14	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	272	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	24	—	—
Total	310	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Pro- secutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	4	4	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors... ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary {insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
accom- {unsuitable or	—	—	—	—
modation {defective ...	—	—	—	—
{not separate	—	—	—	—
{for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences re- lating to outwork and offences under the Sec- tions mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total... ..	4	4		

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Schools.

There are several private boarding and day schools for boys and girls in the Borough, whose conditions are quite satisfactory. There are also Secondary Day Schools for boys and girls under the joint control of the Surrey County and the Borough Councils ; that for boys is the Reigate Grammar School.

The Public Elementary Schools are twelve in number, comprising twenty-one departments, nine of which are "provided," and twelve "non-provided." The former are quite satisfactory in construction, surroundings, and sanitary provision. The latter vary considerably, especially as regards lighting, ventilation, warming, and equipment generally. The public water supply for washing and drinking is available in all, and the sanitary accommodation is sufficient.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer, and one of the Health Visitors is also one of the School Nurses. There is complete co-ordination between the two departments in regard to the prevention of spread of infectious diseases. The Memorandum, issued in 1925 by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education jointly, is adhered to in its main details. A copy has been supplied to each of the Head Teachers.

SECTION IV.

Housing.

(i) General Housing Condition in the Area.

The population of the Borough, enumerated on the Census night (19th-20th June, 1921), was 28,914. This was reduced to 28,690 by the Registrar-General on the grounds that there were more persons visiting Reigate that night than Reigate residents taking their holidays elsewhere. The Registrar-General estimated the population on the 30th June, 1925, at 28,700, an increase of only ten in four years. As about 200 new houses had been erected between these dates, the housing problem should largely have solved itself, if the estimated population were nearly correct. About half the houses were of working-class type.

So far from this being the case, applications for accommodation in Council houses amounted to 304 in 1923, 436 in 1924, and 510 in 1925. As regards the number in 1925,

147 were classed as most urgent, 205 as next most urgent, and 158 as least urgent. The houses actually completed in the five years, 1920–24 were :—

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Total.</i>		<i>Working Class.</i>
1920	...	3	...	3
1921	...	31	...	24
1922	...	31	...	19
1923	...	48	...	17
1924	...	84	...	33
		—		—
<i>Total</i>	...	197	...	96
		—		—

Of the working class houses, 24 were built by the Council, and 30 by private enterprise, with the help of a subsidy. The figures for 1925 are given in a later paragraph. There were 90 working class dwellings completed, 44 having been erected by the Council.

The total houses built by the Council to the end of 1925 is thus 68, and a further 71 are contemplated for erection in 1926.

There is a probability that the buildings, formerly known as the Royal Asylum of St. Anne's Society, will be occupied as a residential institution before long. Apart from this, there have been and are no indications of any local influence likely to cause a rapid increase in the general population of the Borough. A large building estate is in process of development in a choice situation, where, no doubt, residences of some size will be erected, and there will be a corresponding demand for working class houses to accommodate gardeners, chauffeurs, etc.

(ii) Overcrowding.

The Registrar-General takes as a standard of overcrowding the population living more than two persons to a room. At the 1921 Census these amounted to 1015, or 3.8 per cent. of the total private family population, as against 783 and 3.0 per cent. respectively in 1911. If the populations as estimated

by him for 1924 and 1925 are correct, the percentage should be considerably smaller at the present time, having regard to the number of houses built since 1921.

This criterion, however, has no legal sanction. During the five years 1920-24 there were 24 instances coming to the notice of the Sanitary Inspector, where the number of inmates was in excess of the standard recognised for the purpose of action under the Public Health Acts. In most of these instances a tenant had taken in another family some years previously, and one or both of the families had grown in numbers, so as to render the house overcrowded.

The disinclination of girls to go into residential domestic service may be an additional factor in the occupation of houses by an undesirable number of adults.

The Census of 1921 showed that out of 6,052 dwellings occupied by private families, there were 640 occupied by two, and 60 by three or more private families. It must, however, be borne in mind that for Census purposes a single lodger, boarding separately from the occupier, is regarded as a separate "family."

Nine cases of overcrowding were dealt with in 1925.

(iii) Fitness of Houses.

(1) a) General Standard of Housing in the Area.

As the history of the Borough goes back to the day of the Domesday Book, there are necessarily a number of ancient dwellings which display the defects of houses built before official supervision was required, such as dampness, due to absence of damp-courses, inadequate size of windows, and insufficient air space. These, however, are comparatively few in number, and the majority of the houses have been built in the last fifty years. In 1871 there were 2,587 occupied houses ; in 1921 6,052. In some parts of Redhill houses have been erected on boggy land (a practice which cannot be prevented), and there is considerable difficulty in dealing with the subsoil water beneath the floors. On the whole, however, the standard may be considered to be good.

(b) General Character of the Defects found to exist in Unfit Houses.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report shows the conditions found in 189 houses submitted to systematic inspection, and also the classes of nuisance dealt with during the year. These are more or less typical of the results of inspections, bearing in mind that for systematic inspection the properties selected are usually below the average, and that, apart from the systematic inspections, the visits for the detection of nuisances are made on receipt of complaints.

Speaking generally, about half the conditions requiring attention are due to structural defects, and half to need of cleansing interiors. It is difficult to assign the responsibility to owner or occupier respectively. It certainly does not rest entirely with the former.

(2) General Action taken as regards Unfit Houses.

The majority of the defects found can be dealt with more conveniently under the Public Health Acts than under the Housing Act, 1925, and no action was taken under Section 3 of the latter during the year.

As a rule an informal notice is sufficient to have the work carried out, but it is followed by a statutory notice if necessary. No complaint to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction has been necessary since 1921.

(3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness usually arise from financial causes, and, with a willing owner, it is often desirable to allow a reasonably long time for the remedying of such defects as are not likely to be prejudicial to the health of the occupants.

Another occasional cause arises in instances where rents have not been raised in recent years, on the understanding that the tenant shall be responsible for repairs.

(iv) Unhealthy Areas.

Although, as has been mentioned, there is a lack of surrounding air space, according to modern standards, in a

few of the older properties, there are no areas in regard to which representations could be made under the Housing Acts.

(v) Bye-laws relating to Houses, Houses let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

There are no “houses let in lodgings,” and bye-laws as to tents, vans, sheds, etc., have not proved necessary. The preparation of new bye-laws as to new buildings has already been referred to.

Housing Statistics for the year 1925.

The Surveyor informs me that 133 new houses were completed in 1925, 90 of them being considered working-class dwellings. Of these, 44 were erected by the Borough Council, and 25 by private enterprise, assisted by a subsidy.

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	256
(b) Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	189
(c) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(d) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under (c)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	235

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	188
--	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing, Act, 1925	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :					
(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	47
(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :					
by owners	...	...	...	...	47
by Local Authority in default of owners					Nil
(c) Proceedings under Secs. 11, 14 & 15 of the Housing Act, 1925	...	...	...	...	Nil

A Closing Order was, however, made in January, under Sec. 17 (2) of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909, in respect of the dwelling referred to in No. 1 (c) above, a stable converted into a dwelling house, without the submission of plans which could be approved by the Council. This became operative in April, and notice was given to the owner that the Sanitary Committee would proceed to consider the question of making a Demolition Order in June. The owner appeared before the Committee, who, nevertheless, recommended the Council to make the Order, and this was duly made and issued. The Owner appealed to the Ministry of Health, with whom the matter now rests. The owner subsequently deposited plans for converting the building into a dwelling house, but these were not such as could be approved.

Another house, an ancient cottage having insufficient light and ventilation, and in a generally dilapidated condition, was closed voluntarily by the owners. This would have been effected several years ago, but for the difficulty experienced by the tenants in finding alternative accommodation. No rent had been charged to them.

SECTION V.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

A classified list of producers and vendors of milk is given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. In the Borough itself there are seventeen farms from which the public is supplied, the greater part being derived from farms outside, and principally from neighbouring parishes. The cows in the Borough, apart from private herds, vary from 170 to 190 at different seasons. They are examined quarterly by the Council's Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. C. A. Squair.

In the first quarter three cows were submitted to and passed the tuberculin test, one having an indurated udder, one a cough, and the third being in poor condition. In the second quarter four cows were tested, and one reacted. A sample of milk from her, however, failed to show the presence of tubercle bacilli. Of the other three two were in poor condition, and one had an indurated udder. In the third quarter all the cows were healthy. In the fourth two were tested, and passed. One was found subsequently to be suffering from Johne's disease, the other was in poor condition.

In 1923 a commencement was made to examine milk from every retailer for the tubercle bacillus. In the case of retailers who only receive milk from farms, the samples are taken from the churns on arrival. In 1924 the samples were examined for dirt and signs of inflammation in addition. This was continued in 1925, and 91 samples were taken, representing 1,017 gallons, mainly of morning's milk. Fifteen were taken during the month of January, ten during February, and 28 during December (*i.e.*, at seasons when cleanliness of production is most difficult). The tubercle bacillus was found in one sample, the milk being derived from a farm in East Sussex. The Sanitary Inspector of the Local Authority concerned was notified, the herd examined, and two cows removed from it.

As explained in my report for 1924, dirt is indicated by excess of vegetable detritus, whilst inflammation of the udder would be indicated by the presence of pus or blood, and to a less extent by an excess of leucocytes, and by the presence of streptococci.

In the 91 samples a trace of vegetable detritus was found in 57, and a minute trace in 28. In no instance was an excess reported. The proportion as regards the former is higher than that in 1924, in which year most of the samples were taken in more favourable seasons. In 1924, however, a "decided" trace was reported on six occasions, whilst in 1925 no sample contained detritus to this degree. At the laboratory where the examinations were made, it is found that "Certified" milk frequently contains a "minute" trace, and "Grade A" milk a "trace." It is rare for a sample to be free entirely from this material.

No pus or blood was found in any instance. Streptococci were reported in two samples.

A slight excess of squamous cells was found in twelve samples, and a decided excess in two. Unless associated with pus or blood, these cells have little significance.

A slight excess of leucocytes was reported in thirty samples and a decided excess in four. These figures compare very favourably with the corresponding ones in 1924.

There is no doubt that this system of examination has been of considerable value in improving the quality of the milk supply in respects other than its chemical composition. So far as a single examination goes, it indicates that the milk supply of the Borough contains comparatively little organic pollution. The proportion of tuberculous milk to the total supply has fallen to a marked degree in the past three years, though it does not follow that this improvement will be maintained.

Whenever an adverse report of any kind is received, and the farm is situated outside the Borough, a communication is sent to an Officer of the Local Authority concerned.

As in 1924, one licence to sell "Certified" Milk was granted, the farm being situated in another county.

(b) Meat.

The action taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is described in detail in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

There is no public slaughter-house. The number of private establishments *in use* at the dates mentioned are as follows :—

	<i>In 1920.</i>	<i>In January, 1925.</i>	<i>In December, 1925.</i>
Registered	13	13	11
Licensed	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Total	13	14	12
	—	—	—

(c) Other Foods.

The inspections of premises and destruction of unsound food are detailed in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. Fresh powers with respect to places where food is prepared for sale, or in which food is sold, or stored with a view to future sale, are conferred by the Public Health Act, 1925. It will probably be a convenience for purposes of administration, if a register of such premises is made.

Powers with regard to the preparation and sale of Ice Cream are conferred by the Surrey County Council Act, 1925. Ice Cream, as sold in barrows in the streets, is not manufactured within the Borough.

(d) Food Poisoning.

No instance was brought to the notice of the Local Authority during the year.

(e) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report contains a tabulated list of 104 samples taken for examination, evidence of adulteration being found in 5. For the first time "apple" is included. This was in consequence of the discovery in other districts of dangerous quantities of arsenic in certain kinds of imported apples. A small trace was found in the sample taken in Reigate, insufficient to warrant proceedings.

Ten samples of condensed milk were examined, and proved to conform with the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923, except for a small technical point in one instance.

(f) Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

Thirty-three samples of milk were examined for the presence of preservatives, with negative results.

Six samples of cream, not sold as " Preserved Cream," were examined, two of them containing a boric preservative. One (informal) contained an amount equivalent to 0.03 per cent. of boric acid ; the other contained a trace, and the Vendor was cautioned.

Four samples of " Preserved Cream " were examined, the labels indicating that a boric preservative was present to an extent not exceeding 0.4 per cent. of boric acid. The amounts found were 0.16, 0.25, 0.26, and 0.32 per cent. In each case the milk fat exceeded the requisite 35 per cent.

There were no other infringements of the Regulations.

SECTION VI.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases generally.

In the five years 1920-24 there were notified 328 cases of scarlet fever and 174 of diphtheria, a mean of 66 and 35 respectively. 1920 and 1921 were epidemic years for both diseases, since when the cases have fallen to almost negligible numbers. This was also so in 1925 (except for an outbreak of scarlet fever in the Royal Earlswood Institution).

So far as scarlet fever is concerned during that period, there has been nothing noteworthy to report in connection with its source or spread. There were 20 " return cases " out of the 279 removed to hospital, giving a percentage incidence of slightly more than 7. This is an event which it appears impossible to avoid ; in many instances there were no abnormal conditions of throat, or nose, or ear in

the infecting case to account for the persistence of infection. (In estimating the incidence of "return cases" an arbitrary limit of six weeks is often adopted. There is no scientific basis for this, and, while most of the secondary cases referred to have occurred within that period, in several instances the interval has amounted to months.) It is our practice to have the throats and noses of all patients examined bacteriologically on admission. The percentage during the five years of patients having concurrent diphtheritic infection was 29. It is probable that the bacilli found were non-virulent in many instances, but the procedure can hardly have failed to prevent the spread of diphtheria both in the wards, and among the general public after discharge. Both these occurrences were met with before the practice was adopted.

As regards diphtheria, the only noteworthy feature was a milk-borne outbreak in the winter 1922-23, involving 13 patients in 12 different houses.

There were 6 deaths from scarlet fever and 5 from diphtheria during the period, giving a case mortality of 1.8 and 2.9 respectively, both of which are satisfactorily low. Diphtheria antitoxin can be obtained by medical practitioners, at the cost of the Corporation in necessitous cases, for both prophylactic and curative purposes. It is seldom used for the former, but frequently a dose is given to a patient pending the report on the examination of a "swab." This is a practice to be encouraged, and, whilst occasionally a patient may receive a dose although the diagnosis is altered subsequently, the prospects of speedy recovery in true cases of the disease are greatly improved.

Among the rarer notifiable diseases there have been 7 cases of encephalitis lethargica (all adults), two of acute poliomyelitis, and one of cerebrospinal fever during the five years 1920-24. The diagnosis in the case of the first-named disease is often difficult, and was probably not correct in all instances.

In 1919 pneumonia, malaria, dysentery and trench fever became notifiable. In the five years 1920-24 the number

of notifications received amounted to 37 of pneumonia, 3 of malaria and 8 of dysentery. All the cases of dysentery were inmates of the Royal Earlswood Institution, and those of malaria were ex-soldiers or sailors, who had contracted the disease whilst on service in the East. The advantages to be gained by notification of dysentery in hospitals for mental diseases are not obvious.

As regards pneumonia, the deaths each year have always been largely in excess of the notifications, and general practitioners for the most part appear to have forgotten that the disease is notifiable. It is, however, not certain that the benefit likely to accrue, if the Regulations were strictly observed, would be commensurate with the time required for the clerical work and the visiting of the cases by the Health Visitors. Though pneumonia is regarded as an infectious disease, few, if any, of the usual measures taken to limit the spread are applicable or desirable. Patients on the whole bear removal to hospital badly, even if accommodation were always available, and disinfection, as carried out for scarlet fever, would be a waste of time and money. Trained nurses are supplied by the District Nursing Association at very reasonable fees, while the Corporation have an arrangement to supply these nurses in the case of infants, when the parents cannot afford the expense. It is probably in this connection that notification has its chief value. There is, however, an inevitable delay between the onset of symptoms and the date when a Health Visitor can visit a case, and arrange for a nurse, which largely annuls the theoretical value of notification. In an acute and dangerous disease of this kind, assistance must be given early, if it is to be of use.

The general experience here is that, by the time a Health Visitor reaches a notified case, a nurse has already been engaged if her services are necessary.

Examination of Pathological and Bacteriological Specimens.

Specimens from throats or noses of patients suspected to be suffering from diphtheria; of sputum from cases of

suspected tuberculosis ; and of blood from patients suspected to be suffering from enteric fever, are examined by the Medical Officer of Health. During 1925 there were 32 swabs from cases of suspected diphtheria, of which 5 showed the presence of the diphtheria and one of the pseudo-diphtheria bacillus, 26 giving negative results. Four samples of sputum were examined for the tubercle bacillus, with negative results on each occasion. One sample of blood was examined by the Widal test, and gave a strong positive reaction with the typhoid bacillus.

Specimens from the Isolation Hospital are sent to a laboratory in London.

As regards other classes of examination, a pathological laboratory is now established at the East Surrey Hospital. This laboratory may also prove of use for the examination of swabs from contacts or from school classes.

Diphtheria Contacts and Carriers.

The throats and noses of children attending Public Elementary Schools are examined bacteriologically by the School Medical Officer, when a case of the disease occurs in the house. Only four examinations were made in 1925 ; one yielded the " pseudo " bacillus ; the remainder gave negative results.

When there is reason to believe that diphtheria is being spread by school attendance, a search is made for " carriers " in the school. This has not been necessary during the past few years.

When diphtheria patients have been discharged from hospital, if they are children, they are visited at home, and swabs examined from throats and noses. The same procedure is carried out where scarlet fever patients are known to have had concurrent diphtheritic infection. In 1925 only four examinations of the former and four of the latter class were required, the results being negative, though the " pseudo " bacillus was found once in the former and twice in the latter class.

Schick and Dick Tests.

During the past few years methods have been devised to test whether a person is susceptible to diphtheria or scarlet fever, respectively, by these tests ; moreover, it is possible to confer immunity in persons, who are shown to be susceptible to diphtheria, by injections of a mixture of specific toxin and antitoxin. At present this procedure is of particular value in institutions containing numbers of children. In certain cities of the United States, and in at least one large town in the United Kingdom, it has been adopted among the general public, and with very satisfactory results. The " Dick " Test is of more recent discovery than the " Schick " Test, but both are likely to be employed in the future to an increasing extent. Up to the present there has been no indication for their use in Reigate. In certain Surrey villages successful results were obtained during 1925 in connection with outbreaks of diphtheria.

Isolation Hospital.

The Corporation Hospital is situated just outside the Borough Boundary in Horley Parish, and contains three pavilions. That for scarlet fever has accommodation for 12 male and 12 female patients, and contains two small private wards ; that for diphtheria has accommodation for 6 male and 6 female patients ; the third pavilion has two wards, each with 3 beds. For the last three years the wards have been nearly or quite empty during the greater part of the year, but when scarlet fever or diphtheria are epidemic, the accommodation is liable to be strained. Occasionally it has been necessary to select cases of scarlet fever for admission. It has, however, been possible to accommodate all the diphtheria patients requiring hospital treatment during the 25 years which have elapsed since the hospital was completed. " Carriers " are usually removed, and treated like ordinary diphtheria patients.

Vaccination.

No vaccinations under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, have been necessary since the Regulations were issued.

Non-notifiable Infectious Disease.

Knowledge as to the prevalence of measles, whooping cough, mumps, and chicken-pox among children is obtained through the close co-operation existing between the School Attendance Officer and the School Medical Service.

During the five years prior to 1925, measles was present in epidemic form in 1922 ; whooping cough in 1921 and 1924 ; mumps in 1924 ; and chicken-pox in 1924. The three last-named continued to be excessively prevalent in 1925.

Children under the age of 5, suffering from these diseases, are kept under observation by the Health Visitors.

Influenza.

During 1920-24 the average number of deaths ascribed to influenza was 13. Judging by the mortality, 1922 and 1924 were the only years when the disease was seriously epidemic. In 1925 there were only 4 deaths. Special enquiries were made in connection with it in 1922. It is not a disease that lends itself to assistance by a Local Authority. The epidemic is usually of an explosive type ; patients with serious attacks cannot safely be removed to hospital, even if accommodation could be found ; whilst the supply of all available nursing assistance is quickly exhausted.

Arrangements for Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The Corporation cleansing station contains a large high-pressure steam disinfector, and two bathrooms for personal cleansing and disinfecting. Provision is made for dealing with materials which would be damaged by steam. The number of articles disinfected during the year was 1,523. Details are set out in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. The Isolation Hospital has its own disinfecting plant.

No verminous persons were dealt with at the station.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in 1925.

TABLE I shows age periods and other particulars with reference to these diseases. " Other diseases " comprise 4 of erysipelas, and 2 of cerebro-spinal fever. One case of erysipelas ended fatally.

TABLE I.

Ages.	Diphtheria.			Scarlet Fever.			Puerperal Fever.			Enteric Fever.			Pneumonia.			Other Diseases.		
	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospitl.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospitl.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospitl.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospitl.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospitl.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospitl.	Deaths
0-1																		
1-2																		
2-3				1														
3-4																		
4-5				2	1											1		
5-10	2	2		22	3	1							1					
10-15	2	2		14	3													
15-20	1	1		3												1		
20-35	1	1		6	1					1	1		3			1		
35-45													1					
45-55													4			1		
over 65													4			2		1
Total :	6	6	Nil	48	8	1	1	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil	17	Nil	18	6	Nil	1

Thirty-five cases of scarlet fever at the Royal Earlswood Institution were isolated there. Two cases of cerebro spinal fever were treated at the East Surrey Hospital.

Scarlet Fever.

Forty-eight cases were notified during the year. Of these, however, 35 were from the Royal Earlswood Institution. The outbreak began on the 9th January, and there were twenty-one cases during that month. The last case occurred on the 1st August. All the patients were isolated at the Institution, and there were three deaths, one of which is credited to the Borough, and two transferred. Seven of the patients were adults (six females, one male), whilst of the 28 children 19 were males. Infection was thought to have been introduced during an entertainment held early in the New Year.

The 13 notifications in private houses occurred in 9 different dwellings, and 8 of the patients were removed to hospital; there were no deaths. In 1924 the number of notifications, the lowest on record, was 6. Two of the patients were found peeling in school, and there were two others, where the diagnosis was less certain, also found by the School Nurse. The latter two have not been included in the figures. One of the notified patients was, however, probably suffering from German measles.

The only point of interest is the fact that three of the cases were children in one house, the mother being engaged as laundress at the Royal Earlswood Institution when the outbreak commenced in January. There were no other cases in the Borough at the time. Her house is over a mile from the Institution; she never came in contact with any of the patients; and she never had symptoms herself suggesting the mildest of attacks. One child, below school age, was attacked on the 15th January; one on the 17th January, whilst the third failed on the 15th March, eight days after the first patient had been discharged from hospital. None of the children had been near the Institution. The mother probably handled clothing from some of the Institution patients, but these are said to have reached her soaked in disinfectant. It is, of course, possible that clothing from cases, which had not been diagnosed, may have come her way. The connection, however, suggests that while the

infection of scarlet fever is undoubtedly transmitted principally from person to person, the disinfection of textile articles is not an entirely superfluous precaution.

Return Cases.

The patient referred to was the only instance of a "return case" during the year. The throat, nose, and ears of the infecting case appeared to be perfectly healthy, and there were no large glands to be felt behind the jaw. There were in all five discharges during the year.

Concurrent Diphtheritic Infection.

Out of the eight cases removed to hospital two were found to have the diphtheria bacillus present on admission: one in the nose, and one in both throat and nose.

Diphtheria.

For the third year in succession only six cases were heard of. There have never been fewer, and actually in 1925 only five were notified, the sixth being found in attendance at school by myself. All were removed to hospital, and all recovered. Six houses were involved. In two instances the infection was restricted to the nose. In two of the infected houses there were four children attending public elementary schools. Two were examined bacteriologically with negative results. Permission to examine the other two was refused.

Enteric Fever.

The patient was a female adult, attacked at the end of October. She appears to have contracted the infection whilst at the seaside. Her blood gave a positive reaction to the Typhoid bacillus.

Puerperal Fever.

This was a mild attack, treated at home.

Cerebrospinal Fever.

One patient was removed to the East Surrey Hospital on the 29th May for an obscure illness, resembling malaria, which was not finally diagnosed until the end of July. The specific organism was found in the spinal fluid, and she was discharged cured towards the end of August.

The second patient was a nurse at the East Surrey Hospital, attacked on the 28th August. She apparently never came in contact with the other patient. In this instance the diagnosis was not confirmed bacteriologically. She also recovered.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Mumps was extensively prevalent throughout the year, 506 children being excluded from the schools. Next in prevalence was whooping cough with 74 exclusions. The Health Visitors paid 147 visits to children under the age of five. Circulars, calling attention to the serious nature of the disease, were left at houses visited by the School Nurse. There was one death.

There were 70 exclusions for German measles, 65 for chicken-pox, and 9 for measles.

Tuberculosis.

TABLE II includes all cases notified for the first time, namely :—21 cases of pulmonary and 6 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 2 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis moving into the Borough from other areas, one death from pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 deaths from other forms in patients not previously notified.

The death from pulmonary tuberculosis was that of a woman of 73, who had had chronic disease of the lungs nearly twenty years, and who actually died of heart disease. The other deaths were from meningitis in two children.

TABLE II.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1				1				
5	1		1	1				
10		1	2					
15	1			1				
20	1	3		1				
25	3	2		1				
35	1	4						
45	5							
55	1							
65 & upwards ...		1						
Totals	13	11	3	5	11	11	2	2

The organs affected in the non-pulmonary cases were the glands of the neck (2), abdomen (2) brain (2), and the spine and hip (1 each).

The deaths registered during the year were pulmonary 22, non-pulmonary 4, and the ratio of non-notified to total deaths was 3 in 26.

The tuberculosis register was revised at the end of the first quarter of the year. On March 31st there were 85 cases of pulmonary, and 20 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. On the 31st December the numbers were 94 and 22 respectively. It is not possible to keep an efficient check on the movements of patients suffering from this disease.

During the year there were several cases first heard of on transference to an Institution. In some instances the patients were sent there for observation and diagnosis. Where, however, the diagnosis had been established, a primary notification was obtained on request from either the Tuberculosis Officer, or the Medical Officer of the Institution.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was required under either of these measures.

SECTION VII.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Health Centre.

Except during the month of August, and at Easter and Christmas, consultations were held each Tuesday and Thursday during the year, a doctor being in attendance each day. On the 93 days when the consultations took place the attendances of infants amounted to 3,574 as against 3,528 in 1924. The number of individual infants attending was 351. as against 396 in 1924 and 470 in 1923 ; the progressive fall in the birth rate is no doubt chiefly responsible for the drop.

There were 214 attendances of 23 individual expectant mothers at the infant consultations.

There are needlework and boot-mending classes, and a boot and a dental club at the Centre.

Antenatal Clinic.

During the year eleven sessions were held, at which 53 individual expectant mothers attended. The total attendances were 98. The corresponding figures in 1924 were 30 and 56 respectively. The increase tends to show that this department is useful, and appreciated.

Domiciliary Visits.

Two hundred and ninety-six primary, and 1,659 subsequent visits were paid by the Health Visitors to infants under the age of twelve months, and 947 visits to infants between the ages of 1 and 5. Eighty-four primary, and 199 subsequent visits were paid to expectant mothers during the year. There were 1,230 visits of a miscellaneous character, in addition to 7 to cases of measles, 147 to cases of whooping-cough, 42 to cases of pneumonia, 37 to cases of mumps, 27 to cases of chicken-pox, and 2 to a case of puerperal fever.

South Park Weighing Centre.

The Centre was open on 26 occasions, 523 attendances being made by 52 individual infants.

Nurse Banks, who acts as Health Visitor in this parish, paid 21 primary, and 94 subsequent visits to infants under the age of 12 months: 104 visits to children between the ages of 1 and 5; as well as 93 visits to expectant mothers. She also paid 4 visits to cases of whooping cough, 2 to measles, and 1 to chicken pox. During the summer holidays she assisted the Council's Health Visitors by paying domiciliary visits in other parts of the Borough. This Centre is managed by a Voluntary Committee, and their area includes a small portion of the adjoining parishes in Reigate Rural District. The Corporation contribute £10 a year towards their expenses, and in recognition of the useful domiciliary work carried out by Nurse Banks.

The following is an extract from the Annual Report of the Committee for the year ended the 30th September, 1925 :—

“ **Clothing Club.**—There are 14 members of this Club, which is run in connection with the Centre. Payments received from them during the year ending September 30th, 1925, amount to £15 14s. 8d., and £9 19s. 1d. was in hand on October 1st, 1924. Withdrawals by members have amounted to £16 7s. 0d. The sum of £1 4s. 6d., received from tea money, has been paid in bonuses (1d. in the shilling). Mr. Knight, of Reigate, also allowing a discount of 1d. in the shilling to members. Balance in hand is £10 11s. 3d.

“ **Dental Club.**—Cash in hand on October 1st, 1924, was £6 7s. 3d. Payments by members have amounted to £2 0s. 9d., and the sum of £3 2s. 2d. was contributed to the fund by the Clothing Guild. A total of £11 5s. 0d. has been paid out, leaving a balance of 5s. 2d. Two members were assisted in procuring dentures.

“ The **Clothing Guild** in connection with the Child Welfare Centre continues to flourish, and we owe grateful thanks to all those who help on the work by knitting and making garments.”

Midwifery Provision.

The Council paid the agreed subsidy in connection with 110 midwifery and 77 maternity nursing cases.

Dental Treatment.

The collection of subscriptions towards extractions and provision of dentures is managed by the voluntary workers through a provident club at the Health Centre. Much of the work is carried out at the Redhill Dental Dispensary. No application was made during the year for a contribution by the Council.

In addition, the Voluntary Committee assist out of their funds mothers belonging to the Club, who prefer to attend a private dentist for clearances and provision of dentures, or who require fillings or a few extractions only. The scale of assistance is :—

- 1d. in the shilling for a charge up to £1.
- 2d. „ „ „ „ „ between £2 and £3.
- 3d. „ „ „ „ „ exceeding £3.

In 1925 there were 23 mothers, out of approximately 250, attending the Centre regularly, who were on the books of this Club. A few infants are also treated under the voluntary scheme.

Maternity Home.

There was a slightly increased demand for accommodation at the Surrey County Nursing Association's Home in 1925 as compared with previous years. The Borough Council agreed to contribute to the expenses of maintenance in three instances, whilst in a fourth I was able to recommend admission at the minimum scale.

Home Helps.

There were two Home Helps in 1925. They assisted 27 mothers during the year. It is becoming difficult to keep them employed continuously, and the discontinuance of their services is under consideration. They were first engaged in 1919, when the birth-rate was high, and when reliable

women were difficult to find. In 1920 the number was increased from two to five, and decreased to four in 1921. It was easy to keep them well employed, but in 1922 the contributions payable by the mothers was increased on a representation from the Ministry of Health. The number of Helps was decreased to two in 1923. There is still a great request for their services, but it is exceedingly difficult to supply them with any regularity, because the birth-rate fluctuates heavily in different months, and because the mothers are often many weeks out of their reckoning. Their services have been of great value during the seven years, and it is regrettable that the public subsidy is now becoming difficult to justify.

Provision of Milk.

This is undertaken to a limited extent, and only in necessitous cases, by the Voluntary Committee.

Voluntary Agencies.

The work of the Committee in South Park has been referred to, and reference has also been made to the Committee who assist the representatives of the Council and the Official staff at the Health Centre. The value of the services of these ladies cannot be over-estimated, and the results could not be attained without them.

The assistance of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has to be sought occasionally.

Maternal Deaths.

There were no deaths as the result of child-birth among mothers in 1925, and the annual average mortality is considerably below that of the Country generally.

Unmarried mothers : Illegitimate Children : Children permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their own Parents.

No action was necessary during the year.

Orthopædic Treatment.

None was undertaken or required in 1925. There are no facilities at present in or near the Borough, beyond the ordinary services of the East Surrey Hospital.

Co-ordination with the School Medical Service.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer, and one of the Health Visitors gives half her time as School Nurse.

Birth Notification.

Of the 449 births (gross), 433 were duly notified, or 96.4 per cent. Doctors were responsible for 148 notifications, doctors and nurses for 78, midwives or nurses for 203, doctor and parent for 1, parents for 2, and parent and midwife for 1.

Among the 16 unnotified births one occurred in the County Maternity Home, 2 in private nursing homes, and 5 in large residences. The three in maternity and nursing homes were from other areas, and may have been notified there. The 8 unnotified births occurring in smaller houses were attended by six different doctors.

Still Births.

Nine notifications were received, 7 being males. They were derived from doctors in 3 instances, from midwives in 2, and from doctors and nurses in 4.

The majority are investigated by the Health Visitors. In one instance there was a contracted pelvis, and in one the mother was thriftless and probably intemperate. Otherwise the enquiries revealed no reason for the deaths of the infants.

The deaths of infants after birth are referred to in the Section on Infant Mortality.

Notifiable and Non-notifiable Infectious Disease in Mothers and Infants.

The one case of puerperal fever is referred to in Section VI. There were no notifications of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Poliomyelitis or similar diseases during the year.

The visits paid to infants suffering from measles, whooping cough, pneumonia, mumps and chicken-pox by the Health Visitors are set out at the beginning of this Section. In one case of pneumonia a nurse was supplied at the cost of the Council. There were three deaths among children under the age of 5 from pneumonia, and one from whooping cough during the year.

During the hotter months a special effort is made to keep infants, who have been weaned, under supervision. Diarrhoea in epidemic form did not occur during the year, and there was not a single death due to acute gastritis or enteritis.

Two further matters deserve mention in this Section. The first is a successful exhibition held at the Colman Institute in April, by the Voluntary Committee, showing the nature of the work done at the Centre and at South Park. There was an exhibition of clothes, toys, etc., made by parents, and a film was shown on a Health subject. This was in substitution of "Baby Week," held in many parts of the Country.

The second is the result of the annual competition held by the Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres. Reigate was bracketed second with Tooting and Birmingham, with 64 marks, as against 68 by the winners (Southgate). This must be considered a very satisfactory result, doing credit to the parents competing, the Voluntary Committee, and the Health Visitors. There were about 100 competitors.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1925.

Sanitary Department,

Municipal Buildings,

REIGATE.

March 16th, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

MRS. POWELL AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you herewith my Twenty-ninth Annual Report, and in doing so again desire to express my appreciation of the uniform kindness and consideration I have received at your hands.

I again desire to express my deep indebtedness to Dr. A. E. Porter, the Medical Officer of Health, for his kind and generous help at all times and also to express my sincere appreciation of the loyal and painstaking work of my Staff, who have cheerfully carried out a considerable amount of work after the usual office hours and on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

I also have to acknowledge with appreciation the kind co-operation of the other officials and of Mr. T. Kyle (Food and Drugs Inspector, Surrey County Council) who has gone to considerable trouble on many occasions in assisting me in tracing adulterated milk to farms outside my district.

My thanks are also due to Mr. R. H. Thompson, the Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

I am, Mrs. Powell and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. P. HUMPHERY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Infectious Illness.

At 6 houses invaded by infectious illness the laundry work was not done on the premises. The persons who had been doing the laundry work were immediately notified and not allowed to receive any more until disinfection had been carried out.

Where cases have been treated at home, the premises have been frequently visited to ensure of isolation being practised, and each week, where it has been desirable, the laundry work has been steeped in disinfectants by one of the staff before being sent to be washed ; 241 articles have been dealt with in this way.

The flushing of drains of infected premises (which during the year numbered 24) is also undertaken by the Department, so that thorough cleansing has been ensured, which is impossible when disinfectants are given to the tenants.

Notices have been issued to the School Medical Officer and the Superintendents of the Sunday Schools, informing them of all infected houses, and requesting them to exclude children from such until further notified. After disinfection is completed, and a suitable interval has elapsed, they have been advised thereof. If the members of the family are found to be engaged in any business bringing them into close contact with a number of people or foodstuffs, their employers are at once notified, and every precaution taken at once to stop, through contact, the spread of the disease.

Of the 94 rooms disinfected, 37 were in consequence of Consumption, 4 of Diphtheria, 12 of Scarlet Fever, 2 of Typhoid Fever, and 4 of miscellaneous diseases. Disinfection was also carried out at 7 Public Institutions.

Bedding, clothing, etc., that requires disinfection by steam or special fumigation, is removed by the Staff, under my supervision, to the Disinfecting Station. When mattresses and palliasses have to be treated, all the leather tufts are taken off and destroyed, and new tufts put on before the articles are returned to their respective owners.

During the year under review 1,523 articles, in 111 lots, were removed for disinfection, and the following is a summary of them :—

Beds ...	...	...	...	...	27
Mattresses	...	...	...	...	141
Palliasses	...	...	...	...	12
Bolsters	...	...	...	...	129
Pillows	...	...	...	...	313
Sheets ...	...	...	...	...	56
Blankets	...	...	...	...	197
Quilts ...	...	...	...	...	22
Counterpanes	...	...	...	...	42
Carpets	...	...	...	...	9
Rugs ...	...	...	...	...	37
Cushions	...	...	...	...	30
Toilet Covers	...	...	...	...	44
Towels	...	...	...	...	28
Wearing Apparel	...	...	...	...	292
Curtains	...	...	...	...	48
Mats ...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous pieces	...	...	...	...	90
					<hr/>
					1523
					<hr/>

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The above Regulations came into force on April 1st, 1925. A month before that date I sent a copy of the Regulations to all the butchers, together with a circular drawing their attention to certain points in them, and suggested that they should form some scheme of insurance against the risk of having carcasses condemned as being unfit. The butchers called a meeting of their Association, and I was invited to attend and discuss the Regulations with them. The result of that meeting was that an insurance scheme was adopted, and a Management Committee appointed. Bulls and cows are not accepted for insurance risks. Animals purchased below certain values fixed by the Management Committee are also not accepted. I understand that the scheme is working admirably.

During the year the carcasses and offals of the following have been examined :—

Five cows, 674 Steers and Heifers, 342 Calves, 1,983 Sheep, 741 Lambs and 2,553 Pigs.

One cow affected with Johne's Disease ; one cow and four pigs with tuberculosis ; one pig with Erysipelas ; three sheep with pseudo tuberculosis, and one calf with general œdema (moribund at time of slaughter), were surrendered and destroyed. A number of livers and other internal organs were also surrendered and destroyed.

Almost all the inspections above referred to were made after the recognised office hours, as the slaughtering in this Borough is generally conducted in the late afternoon and evening.

There are 14 slaughterhouses, 13 of which are registered and one licensed. In order to meet the requirements of the Meat Regulations, two of the slaughterhouses were unable to be used ; whilst at 10 others structural alterations have had to be carried out—one being entirely reconstructed.

There are still some alterations and amendments needed with regard to the meat stores. The chief difficulty in carrying out these amendments, as with the amendments in the slaughterhouses, is due to most of the property being leasehold and sublet, which necessitates complicated negotiations before improvements can be effected.

In view of the somewhat drastic (though necessary) provisions of the Meat Regulations, I have pleasure in expressing my appreciation of the way that the butchers have endeavoured to meet my wishes to carry them out. No friction worth speaking about has been encountered.

I have experienced a great difficulty in properly disposing of carcasses and offals that were found to be unfit. However, the Council are now considering the advisability of erecting a refuse destructor, and I hope when that matures that a plant will be attached for dealing with organic waste.

With regard to the covering of meat either behind glass or otherwise, this is a difficult problem, as the Regulations are by no means definite upon the point, and I am therefore

refraining from drastic action in this matter, until some more definite Regulation is laid down.

The vehicles used by the butchers are kept exclusively for the purpose of carrying meat, and are closed. Generally speaking they receive every attention with regard to cleanliness.

There are no meat stalls within the Borough.

Food Supply.

A considerable number of visits have been made to Fruiterers, Grocers, Fishmongers, etc., as well as to Butchers' Shops, and in the course of these inspections the following foodstuffs have been surrendered and destroyed (in addition to those mentioned under the "Meat Regulations") :—

Beef	...	...	...	...	746 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Bordeaux Pigeons			...	...	5 (1 box).
Plums	...	...	...	...	49 crates.
Wheeks	...	...	...	...	1 bag.
Symington's Fruit Pudding				...	26 packets.
Bisto	...	...	...	...	6 „
Gravet	...	...	...	...	8 „
Quaker Oats		...	...	...	4 „
Shredded Suet	...	...	...	...	16 cartons.
Potted Sardines	...	...	...	...	34 tins.
Potted Salmon	...	...	...	...	13 „
Pickled Cabbage	...	...	...	...	2 glass jars.
Cream Curd		...	...	...	1 „ jar.
Piccalilli	...	...	...	...	1 „ „
Pickled Onions	...	...	...	...	13 „ jars.
L.V. Pickles	...	...	...	...	3 „ „
Pickled Walnuts	...	...	...	...	2 „ „
Fruit Relish	...	...	...	...	24 „ bottles.
L.V. Sauce	...	...	...	...	2 „ „

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

(Ed. Hinks, Esq., B.Sc., F.I.C., Public Analyst.)

FOODSTUFFS.	Samples taken.				Total.	Genuine	Adulterated.
	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.			
Milk	13	6	7	7	33	32	1
Whiskey	—	—	—	6	6	4	2
Apples	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Butter	8	—	—	—	8	8	—
Cream	—	—	10	—	10	8	2
Vinegar	—	—	—	3	3	3	—
Tinned Milk	—	—	10	—	10	10	—
Shredded Suet	—	—	—	5	5	5	—
Golden Syrup	—	—	—	3	3	3	—
Sponge Cakes	—	7	—	—	7	7	—
Cocoa	—	—	6	—	6	6	—
Milk of Sulphur	—	—	—	4	4	4	—
Tincture of Iodine	—	—	—	4	4	4	—
Boric Acid Ointment	—	—	—	4	4	4	—
Totals... ..	21	13	33	37	104	99	5

With regard to the milk sample adversely reported upon, the deficiency in milk fat corresponded to the abstraction of 3 per cent. of the milk fat. The Public Analyst was consulted, and the vendor cautioned. The County Inspector was also informed.

Of the 2 samples of whiskey adversely reported upon, 1 contained 20 per cent. of added water, and in this case proceedings were instituted, the case being dismissed on payment of costs amounting to £2 12s. 0d., and including the Solicitor's Fee of £1 1s. 0d. and the Public Analyst's Fee, 15/-. In the second case the purchaser's attention was drawn to the notice with regard to the quality of spirits sold on the premises, and he was also asked if he would have "48 per cent." He replied "Yes," and therefore no proceedings could be taken.

Of the 2 samples of cream adversely reported upon, 1 was an informal sample sold as "cream," but was found to contain preservatives; and the other a formal sample from the same vendor, which contained "traces" of boric acid. The vendor was cautioned.

The sample of apples contained a trace of arsenic. On one tin of " Full Cream Sweetened " milk the lettering of the statement as to equivalent pints on the label was 0.118 inch instead of 0.125 (or one-eighth of an inch). In both cases I communicated with the wholesaler.

Bakehouses.

There are 20 bakehouses, 12 being termed workshops, *i.e.*, without mechanical power, and 8 factories, *i.e.*, with mechanical power. All the premises have been cleansed every six months.

Milk & Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, and Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922.

In accordance with the above Acts, two registers are now kept. One gives particulars of retail purveyors of milk, and the other of cowkeepers.

There are, on the former register, 41 entries ; 9 having their premises outside the Borough, and 12 of those whose premises are in the Borough are also cowkeepers.

On the latter register there are 17 entries. Twelve of these are also retail purveyors of milk.

One dairyman is licensed to sell " certified milk " in bottles.

The milk supply of the Borough, apart from that derived from the cowsheds within, comes from the following places:— Balcombe, Betchworth, Blechingley, Buckland, Charlwood, Crawley, Earlswood, Edenbridge, Horley, Leigh, Lowfield Heath, Merstham, Newdigate, Nutfield, Outwood, Salfords and South Godstone.

Allowing for fluctuations, there are about 182 cows kept by persons registered, and the milk produced is retailed within the Borough.

Ninety visits of inspection have been made to the premises registered under the Order.

In view of the number of Regulations that the Ministry of Health have power to, and will no doubt soon issue, no drastic alterations have been suggested pending the issue of these Regulations.

Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act.

The Order of the Board of Agriculture, issued in February, 1912, directing the disinfection of all vehicles removing swine from the markets, has not yet been revoked.

The Order necessitates attendance at the Redhill Market each day until the last pig has been removed, and during the year 350 vehicles have been dealt with under the Order.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

In the Medical Officer of Health's Report will be found particulars of 91 samples of Milk, taken for bacteriological examination by the Clinical Research Association, Ltd.

The taking of these samples entailed a considerable amount of work that does not appear on the surface. The majority were taken between 6 and 8 a.m. (in specially prepared bottles) on the arrival of the milk in the Borough, and when obtained, carried immediately to the Clinical Research Association, Ltd.

Factory and Workshop Act.

Owing to the changes in occupation that are continually taking place, the keeping of a complete Register of Workshops is a difficult matter.

Two hundred and seventy-two visits of inspection were made, and twenty workrooms measured. Plans of the workrooms have been made, and the cubic contents ascertained. Cards are supplied to hang in the rooms giving the number of persons that may be employed during the day and overtime. Generally speaking, the premises have been found well kept.

Three lists of outworkers were received affecting three outworkers, *i.e.*, persons who receive from the occupier of any factory or workshop work to be done in their own homes.

The following list gives the number of the various business premises in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act, and in which there are approximately 1,650 persons employed :—

Business.	Factory.	Workshop.	Workplace
Art Leather Worker		1	
Art Needleworker		1	
Bakers... ..	8	12	
Book Binder	1		
Boot Makers and Repairers		19	
Breweries	2		
Brick Makers, etc.	3	2	1
Carpenters, Cabinet-makers, etc.	5	36	
China Glass Rivetter		1	
Coach Builders	2	6	
Corn Merchant	1		
Cycle Makers	3	9	
Dairyman	2		
Distemper Manufacturer		1	
Dressmakers and Milliners		42	
Engineers	2		
Firewood Works	2	1	
Gas Works	1		
Jam and Essence Makers	1		
Laundries	2	11	
Mantle Makers		1	
Metal Workers	1		
Mineral Water Manufacturers	1	1	
Motor Car Repairers	4	3	
Photographers		6	
Pianoforte Repairers		2	
Picture Frame Makers		2	
Plumbers		10	
Polish Powder Manufacturers	1		
Printers	11	2	
Restaurants			6
Saddlers		6	
Sand Pit			2
Seedsman	1		
Sheet Metal Workers		3	
Shoeing and General Smiths		5	
Stables			14
Stonemasons	1	2	
Sugar Boiler		1	
Tailors		11	
Tanner	1		
Timber Merchants	4		
Tin Plate Workers		1	
Umbrella Makers		1	
Undertakers		1	
Upholsterers		8	
Watch Makers		8	
Wheelwrights		2	
Totals	60	218	23

Summary of Complaints received. Total, 119.

No.	Purport.	Action taken.
37	Insanitary condition of premises	Investigated and Notices issued.
11	House Drainage ...	Ditto.
7	Smells emanating from sewers	Referred to Borough Surveyor.
21	Non-removal of house refuse	Referred to Borough Surveyor.
9	Foul accumulations ...	Nuisance removed.
46	Miscellaneous ...	Investigated, and, where possible, action taken.

Rent Restrictions.

A large number of informal applications have been made ; in all such cases an inspection of the premises has been made and the owner informed of the result of the inspection, and advised to do the repairs necessary in order to prevent the issue of a certificate. In all cases where this plan has been adopted the owners have done the necessary repairs.

Abatement of Nuisances, etc.

The following summary gives some particulars of the amount of work in connection with nuisances and defects dealt with. It is, however, impossible to tabulate a number of minor works of improvement that have been effected, or the number of visits that were made in supervising the carrying out of these improvements :—

Drains examined and tested	...	...	383
Drains relaid	...	...	20
Interceptors fixed	...	...	11
Drain ventilation improved	...	...	6
New W.C. apparatus provided	...	...	96
W.C. apparatus repaired	...	...	2
New soil and ventilating pipes fixed	...	...	11
Waste pipes trapped or repaired	...	...	145
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	83
Back yards paved or repaired	...	...	56
Sinks renewed or repaired	...	...	55
W.C. flushing cisterns fixed or repaired	...	...	111
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	11
Leaky roofs repaired	...	...	44
Eaves gutters and stack-pipes repaired	...	...	32
Rooms cleansed	...	...	531
Accumulations removed	...	...	11
Dampness remedied	...	...	67
Overcrowding suppressed	...	...	9
Plastering of walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	22
Fireplaces or coppers repaired	...	...	31
Window-frames or sash-cords repaired	...	...	21
R.W. gullies cleansed or repaired	...	...	6
Floors repaired	...	...	74

Notices Issued.

	<i>No. issued.</i>	<i>Com- plied with.</i>	<i>Out- stand- ing.</i>
<i>a</i> Preliminary Notices	219	166	53
<i>b</i> Sec. 36, Public Health Act, 1875	5	3	2
<i>c</i> „ 91. „ „ „ „	47	30	17
	271	199	72

a Calling attention to conditions found on inspection.

b To provide "sufficient" closets and ashpits.

c To abate nuisances of various sorts.

Public Mortuary.

During the year there have been 16 bodies deposited in the Public Mortuary for the following purposes :—

Post-Mortem Examination and Inquest 10, Inquest, 4, awaiting burial, 2.

Stable Premises.

During the year the Register of Stable Premises has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. There are now 95 such premises on the Register, and generally speaking they have been well kept.

Systematic Inspection of Houses.

The particulars obtained and recorded of each house inspected contains *inter alia* a block plan (to scale) of the house and drainage system, aspect, soil, ventilation round premises, size of each room, window area in relation to floor space, ventilation of rooms, number of occupants, conditions as to cleanliness, details of all sanitary fittings, state of walls and roof, dampness, conditions of yard and outbuildings, result of the test applied to the drains, and particulars of works of amendment ordered and carried out.

As soon as inspection is complete, a preliminary notice is sent to the owner calling his attention to the defects discovered. If this is disregarded, or the requirements named therein are only partly complied with, the circumstances are reported to the Sanitary Committee, and a statutory notice is issued. If this is not complied with, the facts are again reported to the Committee, and legal proceedings ordered.

An enormous amount of time is absorbed in interviewing owners and persuading them to carry out the work without resort to legal proceedings, and in addition, rapid progress is very considerably hindered by the majority of the small houses being on combined systems of drainage, and the consequent difficulty of getting the various owners to agree to do the work.

The following tables give some particulars of the conditions found on inspection under the systematic inspection. The houses referred to are working-class dwellings, and are situate at Albert Cottages, Albion Road, Chart Lane, Clarence Walk, Croydon Road, Earlsbrook Road, Eastnor Road, Effingham Road, Glovers Road, Howard Road, Lesbourne Road, Reigate Heath, Reigate Hill, Somerset Road and West Road.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	189
Rooms measured	...	...	...	1061
Rooms without fireplaces	...	...	...	65
Houses occupied by one family	...	...	...	125
„ „ „ two families	...	...	...	33
„ „ „ one family and lodgers	...	...	...	41
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	—
Houses supplied direct from public main	...	...	...	189
Improper water closet	...	...	...	121
Ventilation of Water Closets	{	Good	...	115
		Fair	...	74
		Bad	...	—
Light of Water Closets	{	Good	...	108
		Fair	...	81
		Bad	...	—
Defective Sinks	...	...	...	69
Untrapped waste pipes	...	...	...	121
Dampness by	{	Roof	...	32
		Windows	...	23
		Dampcourse	...	32
		Drift	...	39
Yard Paving and drainage	{	Good	...	55
		Fair	...	83
		Bad	...	51
Outbuildings (<i>i.e.</i> , sheds, etc. in back yards)	...	...	...	205
Improper dustbins	...	...	...	93
Defective drains	...	...	...	26
Air circulation round houses	{	Good	...	178
		Fair	...	11
		Bad	...	—
Defective eaves, gutters and stack pipes	...	...	...	31

Cleanliness of premises for which owner is responsible ...	{	Good	...	92
		Fair	...	83
		Bad	...	14
Cleanliness of premises for which occupier is responsible ...	{	Good	...	104
		Fair	...	82
		Bad	...	3

Summary of Part of Work.

It is impossible to tabulate the numerous duties that are undertaken by the Department, but the following summarises to some extent the visits of inspection that were made for various purposes:—

Visits for inspection of	{	Dwelling-houses	...	...	256
		Dairies, Cowsheds, &c.	...	...	90
		Bakehouses	...	...	44
		Factories, Workshops and Work-places			272
		Outworkers' Premises	...	...	24
		Stable Premises	...	...	357
Visits in connection with notification of Infectious Illness					
		...	...	...	436
Visits for sampling under Food and Drugs Act					
			...	...	95
,, ,, ,, for Examination of Milk (Clinical Research)					
			...	...	78
Visits to premises under notice for amendment					
			...	...	686
Miscellaneous Visits					
			...	...	1082

Of the above 256 dwelling houses, 189 were inspected under the systematic inspection of houses, the remainder having been partially inspected for some special reason.

Office Work.

The following is a summary of part of the work: it is, however, impossible to tabulate all that is done.

Calls and communications received and entered	...	8097
Letters written	...	656
Communications to S.M.O. (<i>re</i> infectious illness)	...	19
Communications to S.A.O.	...	6
Communications to Head Teachers of Sunday Schools (<i>re</i> infectious illness)	...	9

Letters to Bakers (<i>re</i> cleansing)	...	...	36
Reports and letters sent to Medical Officer of Health			135
Report to Chairman (<i>re</i> infectious illness)	...		34
Reports made to Committee	...	...	12
Dust Complaints received and forwarded to Borough			
Surveyor	...	...	21
Notices issued	...	...	271
Entries made in Nuisance Journal	...	...	53
Entries made in Nuisance Register	...	...	255
Entries made in Food and Drugs Register	...	...	104
Entries made in Register of Factories and Workshops			14
Entries made in Cowsheds and Milkshops Register			6
Plans of Workrooms made	...	...	5
Scarlet Fever Precautions sent	...	...	9
Booklets <i>re</i> Feeding of Infants despatched	...	...	354
Circulars <i>re</i> Infantile Diarrhoea despatched	...	...	408
Circulars <i>re</i> Fly Danger despatched	...	...	2810
Reports and Letters sent to Health Visitor	...	...	39

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No.	Nature of Offence.	Date of Hearing.	Result.
1	Selling chocolate powder as cocoa	Jan. 22, 1925.	Fined 10/- ; Analyst's Fee, 15/-.
2	Selling whiskey contain- ing 20 per cent. of added water	Jan. 28, 1926.	Case dismissed on pay- ment of costs :—Soli- citor's Fee, £1/1/- ; Ana- lyst's Fee, 15/- ; and costs 16/- (£2 12s. 0d.).
	1 Offence committed Dec. 4th, 1924		
	2 Offence committed Dec. 14th, 1925.		